

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

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S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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R 081936Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 146421

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT
WAS MADE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT PRESS BRIEFING JULY 8,
1974:

QUOTE: THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED US OF ITS
NEED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN EXAMINING A SERIOUS COTTON
WORM BLIGHT THAT IS ENDANGERING EGYPT'S CURRENT CROP. THIS
IS A RECURRENT PROBLEM IN EGYPT, AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES,
AND THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN HELPING TO FIND A TECHNICAL
SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. AND THEREFORE IN KEEPING WITH THE
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON U.S.-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION ISSUED
AT THE CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO EGYPT, THE
UNITED STATES HAS SENT TWO EXPERTS TO STUDY THE SITUATION
AND TO ADVISE THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ON HOW IT MIGHT DEAL
WITH THE PROBLEM.

Q. IS THIS THE FIRST TIME THE UNITED STATES HAS ENGAGED IN
SUCH A TECHNICAL AID PROGRAM FOR EGYPT IN THE COTTON CROP?

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A. IT MAY WELL BE.

Q. WHERE DID THEY TURN FOR HELP BEFORE, IF THIS IS A RE-CURRENT PROBLEM?

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY HAVE TURNED FOR HELP TO OTHERS, BUT I AM INFORMED THAT THE TWO EXPERTS ARE IN EGYPT. I CAN PROVIDE THEIR NAMES IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

Q. HAVE YOU GOT THEIR NAMES?

A. YES. DR. THEODORE WATSON, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, AND DR. WINFIELD STERLING, TEXAS A&M.

Q. THEY ARE ALREADY IN EGYPT?

A. YES, THEY HAVE BEEN THERE SINCE SATURDAY. AND THEY ARE THERE UNDER WHAT I UNDERSTAND TO BE A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WHICH AID HAS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. END QUOTE. SISCO

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